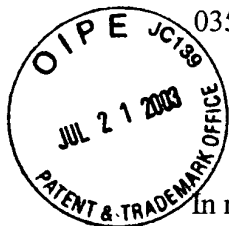


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03500.012475.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KATSUMI NAKAGAWA, et al.

Application No.: 09/638,398

Filed: August 15, 2000

For: METHOD OF PRODUCING
SEMICONDUCTOR MEMBER
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING
SOLAR CELL

Examiner: S. Mulpuri

Group Art Unit: 2812

July 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is also enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 4,900,694

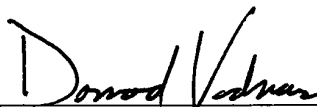
This document was cited during prosecution of a European Patent Application corresponding to the above U.S. Application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated May 8, 2003, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that the document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Moreover, this application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a

final action or a notice of allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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